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CLAIMS

- 5 1. A method of reducing the absorbability of a laminated material used for the manufacture of flexible containers and which in use has an intended inner surface and an impermeable core barrier layer, said method comprising arranging for at least one further layer, formed from substantially non-polar thermoplastics resin filled with a platelet filler, to be positioned inwardly of the barrier layer.
- 10 2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the platelet filler comprises a high purity talc.
3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said further layer is adjacent the barrier layer and is adhered thereto by a tie layer.
- 15 4. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein, in order to aid welding of the laminated material, the further layer is spaced from the inner surface of the laminated material by an additional layer of non-polar thermoplastics resin material.
- 20 5. A method according to claim ¹⁷~~4~~, wherein said additional layer is also filled with a platelet filler.
- 25 6. A laminated material for the manufacture of a flexible container and which, in use, has a surface intended to be external of the container and a surface intended to be internal of the container, the laminated material comprising an intermediate barrier layer of thermoplastics material having, on its inner side, at least one further layer comprising substantially non-polar thermoplastics resin filled with platelet filler.
- 30 7. A laminated material according to claim 6, wherein the platelet filler comprises high purity talc.

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8. A laminated material according to claim 6 or 7, wherein the further layer has a thickness of between 20 and 150 microns, preferably about 50 microns.

9. A laminated material according to any one of claims
5 6 to 8, wherein said further layer comprises high density
polyethylene, or at least a major portion of high density
polyethylene.

10. A laminated material according to claim 9 when dependent upon claim 7, wherein said further layer comprises from 5% to 30% by weight of talc.

11. A laminated material according to any one of claims 6 to 10, wherein said further layer is spaced from the internal surface of the laminated material by an additional layer of non-polar thermoplastics resin material.

15 12. A laminated material according to claim ~~11~~¹⁰,
wherein said additional layer is also filled with a platelet
filler.

13. A laminated material according to any one of claim 6 to 12, wherein said barrier layer has a thickness of from 5 microns to 25 microns, and said further layer has a thickness of about 50 microns.

14. A flexible container having walls formed from a laminated material as claimed in any one of claims 6 to 13.

15. A flexible container having flexible walls formed from a laminated material having a core barrier layer of a thermoplastics material with at least one further layer arranged internally of the barrier layer, said one further layer comprising substantially non-polar thermoplastics resin filled with platelets of talc having an aspect ratio of at least 5, an average aspect ratio of from 16 to 30 and a CIE whiteness of at least 40.

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